

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot ***Malden, Medford, & Everett, MA***

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

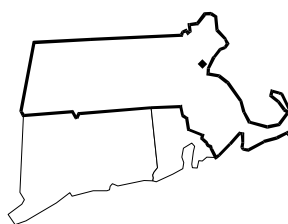
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 150 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Cities of Malden, Medford, and Everett as a Brownfields Pilot. The three communities are located in an urbanized area five miles north of Boston. The area's manufacturing and industrial activities historically centered around the Malden River and abutting railroads. In recent years, manufacturing has declined in Malden by 13%, Everett by 61%, and Medford by 79%. Each community has a lower per capita income than the state average, and the average poverty rate in the project area is 9.1%.

The three cities have joined together on a project to construct a state-of-the-art telecommunications research and development park, called TeleCom City. The 200-acre area consists of blighted industrial land that once supported power generation and chemical production facilities. The stagnant area is at the fringe of each community, with no public access to the river. Perceived and real contamination hinders economic redevelopment of the area. More than 70% of the site is vacant or used for parking or open storage. The TeleCom City project is overseen by the Mystic Valley Development Commission (MVDC), a tri-city legislative body established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and approved by the three cities. Funding support of over \$1 million has been granted by Massachusetts, with an additional \$30 million committed to this project by the state.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Malden, Medford, & Everett,
Massachusetts*

Date of Announcement:
May 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets 200 acres of blighted industrial land for redevelopment into a state-of-the-art telecommunications research and development park.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

Pilot funds will be used to help prepare the project area for cleanup and redevelopment activities by developing a comprehensive environmental database that will make overall assessment less costly than a parcel-by-parcel approach. The overall objective of the TeleCom City project is to convert 200 acres of underused, blighted industrial land into a telecommunications center that will advance the local and regional economies. To overcome fragmented ownership and liability constraints, the MVDC will obtain ownership control over the project area and establish a consistent set of zoning controls, which will allow for comprehensive environmental testing of the area without the constraints of parcel boundaries. In addition, significant public recreational activities and green space will be provided for the three communities and the general public through reclamation of the environmentally distressed Malden River area.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Updating the existing environmental database in Malden;
- Assessing the Malden River Riparian Corridor in Medford and Everett;
- Preparing initial site assessments in Medford and Everett; and
- Assessing the road reconstruction area along the western border of the proposed TeleCom City.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.